

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-07 TRSE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02

L-03 XMB-02 OPIC-03 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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SUBJECT: US-EGYPTIAN JOINT BUSINESS COUNCIL

REF: CAIRO 9472

1. IN RECOGNITION IMPORTANCE OF JBC MEETING, MINECONCOOP SHAFEI HAS TAKEN OVER PREPARATIONS BEING MADE AT THIS END. HE INFORMED AID REP AND ECONCOUN ON SEPT 24 THAT HE HAS DESIGNATED U/SEC GAMAL EL NAZIR AS THE FOCAL POINT FOR GOE EFFORTS, BUT EXPECTS TO KEEP A CLOSE PERSONAL EYE ON ALL FACETS OF ARRANGEMENTS. MEETING WITH EGYPTIAN SIDE SCHEDULED FOR LATER IN SAME DAY.

2. SHAFEI'S PRINCIPAL CONCERN IS EVIDENTLY FACT THAT AHMED EFFAT, EGYPTIAN CO-CHAIRMAN, DOES NOT HAVE AN ORGANIZATION AT HIS DISPOSAL TO WORK ON MEETING. EFFAT WILL CONTINUE AS CO-CHAIRMAN, BUT WILL WORK UNDER DIRECT SUPERVISION OF MINISTRY. (TO EMBASSY'S KNOWLEDGE, EFFAT STILL DOES NOT HAVE AN OFFICE. HE WORKS OUT OF HIS CAIRO AND ALEX APARTMENTS.)

3. SHAFEI SAYS HE HAS TAKEN ACTION TO PREVENT PREPARATION AND PRESENTATION OF PROJECT LIST THAT WAS INTENDED FOR US SIDE (REFTEL). HE WAS SINGULARLY UNIMPRESSED WITH MAJORITY OF PROPOSALS. (FYI - HE SAID THESE INCLUDED DESCRIPTION OF PARCELS OF LAND ON

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WHICH OWNERS, MEMBERS OF GOE SIDE, DESIRED TO HAVE APARTMENT

BUILDINGS CONSTRUCTED. END FYI).

4. WE ARE NOT CERTAIN IF ABOVE INFORMATION WAS COMMUNICATED TO CALDWELL AND BREWER DURING THEIR MEETING WITH SHAFEI SEPT 21. IN ANY EVENT, ATTENTION IS EVIDENTLY BEING PAID TO SUGGESTION FROM CALDWELL THAT EGYPTIAN MEMBERSHIP BE INCREASED. SHAFEI IS NOT CONVINCED THAT MINISTERS SHOULD BE INCLUDED, BUT RECOGNIZES THERE IS CERTAIN UTILITY. AID REP AGREED TO SUPPLY NAZIR WITH NAMES OF MINAG PEOPLE THAT MIGHT USEFULLY SERVE, AND ECONCOUN SUGGESTED INCLUSION OF YUSEF NABIH FROM PRIVATE SECTOR. (CALDWELL AND BREWER MET NABIH IN CAIOR, AND HE HAD ALSO BEEN INCLUDED ON ORGINAL LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS SUBMITTED BY EMBASSY LATE LAST YEAR.)

5. SHAFEI ASKED IN PARTICULAR THAT HE BE PROVIDED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WITH LIST OF ATTENDEES AND WIVES, AS WELL AS ARRIVAL TIMES, AND AN INDICATION AS TO WHAT SIDE TRIPS ARE DESIRED, PARTICULARLY BY WIVES, SO THAT HE CAN BEGIN ORGANIZATIONAL EFFORTS. EMBASSY PREPARED TO PASS THIS INFORMATION IF US SIDE WISHES.

6. SHAFEI SAID HE INTENDS TO REWORK AGENDA THAT US PROPOSED, SO THAT PLENARY SESSIONS WILL COVER THREE GENERAL TOPICS: GENERAL OVERVIEW; PRIORITIES AND PLANNING FOR NEXT FIVE YEARS, WITH PARTICIPATION BY MINPLANNING; INVESTMENT FACILITIES AND PROCEDURES. HE ALSO HOPES TO HAVE FORD FOUNDATION'S INVESTMENT GUIDE READY FOR DISTRIBUTION AT MEETING.

7. CALDWELL HAD ASKED IF PM SALIM COULD BE PRESENT FOR OPENING SESSION, AND IF MEETING WITH PRES SADAT COULD BE ARRANGED. SHAFEI SAID THAT BOTH COULD BE ARRANGED.

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